

Radical Chronicle

RSS Information Notice

Fall 1999

Visit our Website at:

www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm

Interactive Forms on the Web

RSS forms can now be completed on-line and submitted to our office from our web site. Go to www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm and click on "forms". The forms that are available will be listed. These forms are in pdf (portable document format) format. You must have Adobe Reader software loaded on your computer to access these forms. You can download this software from this page. The software is free.

Once you have complete the form; click on the "submit" button. An e-mail window will appear with the form as an attachment. You may include any comments in this email or attach additional files such as your protocol or room diagrams. Click on the "send" button and your application form will be sent to the RSS mailbox.

Nuclear Gauge Accident

On Friday, November 12, 1999, a nuclear gauge was hit by a roller at an NRCS earth dam construction site in Everest, Kansas. The gauge was being used to take compaction readings. The gauge was a Troxler 3430 containing 40 millicuries of Americium-241 and 8 millicuries of cesium-137. The State of Kansas' Department of Health emergency response at the request of RSS went to the site and took radiation level readings and leak tests. There was no damage

to the sources and the gauge was returned to Troxler.

Users of nuclear gauges are reminded that they must maintain *constant* surveillance of the gauge at all times and the gauge should be in the immediate control of the user. RSS must also be notified *immediately* if the gauge is involved in an accident.



HazMat Training

HazMat Training is now available on our website. Go to our website and click on "training"; select "HazMat Training." A slide show will appear. You may select to have the slide show run automatically or manually. You may also download the whole presentation. When you have completed viewing the slide show, you can take the test. (The Department of Transportation requires that HazMat employees be tested and that the record of the test be maintained).

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HazMat Training (cont'd)

There are 10 multiple choice questions. Select the answers and click on the “submit” button. The test will be transmitted to RSS and scored. Your test result will be e-mailed back to you at the email address you provide. In the near future, you will receive your score immediately. You should print out a copy of this test for your records.

Inspections Performed (October-December)

ARS

Manhattan, KS
Baton Rouge, LA
New Orleans, LA
Frederick, MD
Oxford, MS
Stoneville, MS
Woodward, OK

FS

Stoneville, MS
Delaware, OH

NRCS

Granada, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Tupelo, MS

Violations Cited

- T Surveys not performed at the required frequency.
Surveys for radioactive contamination must be performed if radioactive material is used or stored. This includes radioactive waste. These areas must be surveyed weekly or monthly depending on the quantity of radioactive material used.

- T Failure to post NRC-3 “Notice to Employees”
An NRC-3 “Notice to Employees” form must be conspicuously posted in area where it can be seen by individuals entering an area where radioactive materials are used or stored.

Tentative Inspection Schedule

(January-March)

ARS

Kerrville, TX
College Station, TX

NRCS

Temple, TX

FS

Yreka, CA
Lakeview, OR

New Staff Member

Sheina Alexander recently joined the RSS. Sheina is a student at the University of Maryland and is studying Spanish and Biology. Sheina will be working for the Permits Operations Section and will be responsible for processing permits and purchase orders.



How to Contact Us

| Name | Title | Telephone | e-mail address | contact for: |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| John Jensen | Director | 301-504-2440 | jjensen@rss.usda.gov | |
| Sheina Alexander | Office Automation | 301-504-2451 | salexander@ars.usda.gov | purchase orders |
| John Elliott | Chief, Permit Operations | 301-504-2443 | jelliott@rss.usda.gov | permit actions status, quarterly surveys, leak tests |
| Katina Jones | Health Physics Technician | 301-504-2444 | kjones@rss.usda.gov | inventory, leak tests |
| Jack Patterson | Health Physicist | 301-504-2445 | jpatterson@rss.usda.gov | APHIS, ARS (NPA, PWA) |
| Lori Powell | Health Physicist | 301-504-2446 | lpowell@rss.usda.gov | ARS (BA, SPA) NRCS, OO, FSIS |
| Rachel Scott | Office Automation Clerk | 301-504-2442 | rscott@rss.usda.gov | dosimetry, inventory, purchase orders |
| Dan Sharp | Health Physicist | 301-504-2447 | drsharp@ars.usda.gov | ARS (NAA, SAA, MSA, MWA) FS, GIPSA, AMS |
| Nicole Smith | Permit Processing Assistant | 301-504-2448 | nsmith@rss.usda.gov | purchase orders |

FAX: 301-504-2450

Address: USDA/HRM/SHMD/RSS
Mail Stop 5510
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5510

In Case of Emergency please contact one of the Health Physicists at one of the following numbers:

Jack Patterson: 240- 463-0433
Lori Powell: 240- 463-0431
Dan Sharp: 240-463-0430

